

CITY OF BRAWLEY
December 6, 2011

The City Council and Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Brawley, California met in a Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM, Council Chambers, 383 Main Street, Brawley, California, the date, time and place duly established for the holding of said meeting. The City Clerk attests to the posting of the agenda pursuant to G.C. §54954.2.

The meeting was called to order by *Mayor Campbell* @ 6:20 PM

The invocation was offered by *Pastor Mike Neciuk*, of El Redentor Church

The pledge of allegiance to our flag was led by *CM Couchman*

PRESENT: Campbell, Couchman, Kelley, Miranda, Nava
ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was *approved* as submitted. m/s/c Couchman/Miranda 5-0

AYES: Campbell, Couchman, Kelley, Miranda, Nava
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

1. PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS

Juanita Salas representative of Senator Bob Filner presented *Outgoing Mayor Campbell* with a certificate of recognition and looking forward working together and partnership.

Eric Reyes representing the Hidalgo Society invites the council and public to the 90th year celebration this Friday, December 9th starting at 5:30 PM there will be a free tri-tip dinner.

John Hernandez Member of the Senior Citizens Club wanted to invite council and the public to their annual BBQ at the Lions Center, Saturday, December 10th, from 11:00 – 4:00 PM. The annual Christmas Trees of the community will be there to view and we will also have a raffle; thanks to all of you for support.

2. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Monthly Staffing Report and 2012 Calendar - Shirley Bonillas, Personnel & Risk Management Administration.

Staff Report - Shirley Bonillas, Personnel & Risk Management Administration

In the Parks & Recreation Department, there are 2 workers that have stopped working that were hired for Cattle Call. 7 seasonal workers on the active payroll that are called in to turn on/off lights, open/close the Lions Center for events, etc. Performing these tasks with seasonal workers is more cost effective than paying overtime to a full time employee. In the Police Department, there is 1 general laborer and he has submitted his resignation so that position will be open. Duties include landscaping, general building maintenance and washing the police cars.

b. Annual Employee Appreciation Event - Shirley Bonillas, Personnel & Risk Management Administration.

P & RMA Bonillas announced that the Employee's Annual Appreciation Luncheon will take place on Thursday, December 15th, 2011 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM at the Lion's Center.

c. Angel Tea Party - Marjo Mello, Library Director

LD Mello wanted to invite everyone to their annual Angel Tea Party; it is a traditional tamale dinner scheduled for Thursday, December 8th, 2011 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Brawley Public Library. I would also like to mention that the Library staff decorated a Christmas tree of the community at the Lions Center.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was *approved* as followed. m/s/c Campbell/Couchman 5-0

AYES: Campbell, Couchman, Kelley, Miranda, Nava
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

- a. *Approval* of City Council Minutes October 4, 2011 and October 18, 2011.
- b. *Approval* of Accounts Payable November 18, 2011.
- c. *Award* bid to Hazard Construction Company for Project No. 2011-07, 9th Street Paving Project for an amount of \$574,302 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documentation in relation to this project.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Nava handed out sheets to Council Members to go over changes on Boards, Committees and Commissions.

b. Documentation of City Council Meetings-Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Manager

Staff Report – Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Manager

Historically the Brawley City Council meetings have been recorded and then transcribed verbatim. The meetings are staffed by both the City Clerk and Records Clerk. Once the meeting minutes are drafted by the Records Clerk, the City Clerk reviews the content for accuracy and then the Library Director reviews and corrects draft minutes for grammar. The preparation of minutes for each City Council meeting consumes approximately forty (40) hours of staff time. A survey of public agencies was conducted in November of 2011 to determine the form of minutes taken among local jurisdiction in Imperial County. The neighboring cities in the Imperial County are done by action minutes except for City of Calexico they do verbatim only for controversial or recorded. It is proposed that the City of Brawley prepare action minutes in lieu of verbatim minutes. The City can continue to record and archive recordings for the public as backup documentation. Should the Council opt to consider alternative recommendations, other more efficient and potentially cost effective methods for verbatim options may include videotaping of meetings or hiring of a transcriptionist? Subjects of controversy can be in a pro and con summary of points raised. It is estimated that the staff time required will be reduced by 75% in staffing expense.

CM Couchman asked how long we have retained tapes. ***Answer:*** Since 2007. (***Benavides***)

CM Kelley said that he would like to see the cost for video recording.

CM Nava stated he concurred with ***CM Kelley***.

CM Bayon Moore said that the cost is about \$400 per meeting.

CM Nava said maybe not as expensive to host.

The council ***motioned*** to document City Council minutes by action. m/s/c Campbell/Couchman 5-0

c. Operational Deficit Strategy - CalPERS Benefits for Unrepresented, Management and Confidential Employees - Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Manager

Staff Report - Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Manager

Implement a shared cost strategy with Unrepresented, Management and Confidential City of Brawley employees or the entire employee portion of CalPERS contributions (7% for Miscellaneous and 9% for Public Safety), beginning July 1, 2012. To take a closer look at examining projections, we need to be proactive on how to bridge our deficit. In the past, we had to dip into the reserves. We need to take a look statewide of what's going on and look at different scenarios that we might consider in the future. Attached are documents from across California and Western Cities Magazine. The lead article identifies sensible and responsible steps Cities can take now beginning with the employee, not the employer, paying the employees share of CalPERS costs. Within the City, a total of 147 employees are CalPERS beneficiaries. A total of 55 out of 147 employees are Unrepresented, Management and Confidential employees. The

savings of 7% Miscellaneous and 9% Public Safety if we implement this CalPERS strategy on the most aggressive timeline possible with an effective date of February 1, 2012, will be a savings of \$76,235 over the five (5) months remaining in FY 2011-2012 budget. Instead of modifying CalPERS benefits, an alternative is to reduce staffing levels to bridge the operational deficit. A total of \$182,965 in employee contributions will reduce the City's General Fund deficit estimated for FY 2012/2013.

Eric Reyes of Brawley asked where does our reserves stand at this fiscal year? **Answer:** Audit at this moment for 2011 is \$5 million and for 2012 will be \$2.5 million. The public gave you the confidence and voted yes, so you will be accountable.

Ana Gutierrez of Public Works stated to consider other ways or options, we feel you are attacking the staff, our insurance went up this year and then another hit in July of 7% can we give other options.

CM Nava said that we are open to comments and options. Feel free to contact Council by phone if you wish not to come up and speak tonight.

CM Bayon Moore mentioned that there are areas in which we can make changes but we need to meet with the bargaining units.

CM Couchman indicated that City could implement gradually staff cuts; I'm not prepared to impose the 7% contribution right of way; let's look at other options.

CM Miranda stated that he felt the same as **CM Couchman** let's not target some employees. We need to do it straight across the board.

CM Campbell said lets table this to meet with the employees to let them know the city is in need of help.

CM Kelley stated he supported moving that direction; not on those that are not represented; pension burden coming down on other cities as well; I would like to see across the board.

CM Nava said he wanted to be clear to everyone that I'm here to listen and so are the other Council Members; this is the direction we are taking.

Ruth Duarte, Teamsters Representative said yes we understand the contribution but don't know about the 7%; would like to meet and see what your goal is; let's help the members and the City; I just want to let you know that right now some employees are paying from \$700 to \$800 out of pocket for medical/dental/vision insurance; how can teamsters help and not pay the 7% right off the top.

CM Couchman said this a savings of \$76,000; we need to see how we can save in other areas as well like we just talked about videotaping the City Council Meetings; I understand the employees need to pay a portion but we really need to look at our spending.

CM Kelley said in rebuttal to what **CM Couchman** said I agree we need to look and save, too.

CM Nava indicated that he is optimistic but we have a new City Manager on board. She is the Chief Negotiator. We are all in the same boat and need to come up with a solution together.

CM Kelley said we need to set up a workshop to examine the items and have solutions presented.

CM Bayon Moore indicated that it was something she was going to talk about in her City Manager report. She had thought of not having the regular meeting of 1/3/2012 and maybe have a workshop instead then.

CM Couchman said I don't mind a regular meeting but I feel negative about having a workshop.

Mayor Nava stated that he agreed on having the regular meeting on the 3rd and a workshop on the 10th. Let's have it somewhere else, maybe the Del Rio Community Center.

CM Kelley said he concurred with **Mayor Nava** not to have a setup like a meeting but have round table discussions.

CM Bayon Moore said she will work with the mayor and staff to setup.

5. COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

- a. **CM Campbell** said he attended a SCAG meeting in Los Angeles and wanted to thank staff for all your hard work and God Bless all of you.
- b. **CM Kelley** said the next ICTC next meeting will be December 7th at 6:00 pm. Now that we focused on cleaning up the City yard maybe we can put privacy slats on the fence.

CM Bayon Moore indicated that we are looking at an affordable method to screen.

Mayor Nava asked if the alley can be widened. **Answer:** Will work with Public Works and see what we can work out.

CM Campbell thanked staff for the cleanup.

- c. **CM Miranda** mentioned that he had started working again for the Department of Corrections.
- d. **CM Couchman** said he attended the Enterprise Zone meeting in El Centro. I agree with CM Kelley regarding the fencing along Chabela's.
- e. **Mayor Nava** said he attended a Special Meeting with Brawley Chamber they had a speaker from Yuma and talked about a 12 step plan for businesses which we can

also use at the City, I'm looking forward to working with staff, City Manager and City Council this coming year.

6. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY/CITY CLERK REPORT

- a. Announced that Rosa Ramirez attended a Public Financing Conference in Long Beach and has provided information. Auditors will be here next week.
- b. The City Clerk also attended her annual conference in Long Beach and provided information on bills that were presented.
- c. The City Attorney had nothing to report.

7. ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

REPORT OF ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY, BY CITY ATTORNEY

There was none to report.

ADJOURNMENT @ 7:26 PM

Alma Benavides, City Clerk